

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Violent course of antifa, Black Lives Matter is threat to working class
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Solidarity with Dominion grocery strike in Canada!

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

OTTAWA, Ontario — As they enter their third week on strike, 1,400 Dominion grocery store workers in Newfoundland received solidarity on Labor Day from fellow Unifor union members and other supporters of their fight for full-time jobs and higher wages. Actions were held coast to coast. Here in Canada’s capital, we joined in handing out leaflets in support of the strike in front of a Loblaw’s chain store, whose owners also run Dominion.

In other cities strike supporters picketed Shoppers Drug Marts and Real Canadian Superstores, which are also owned by Loblaw Companies Limited. With 135,000 workers, it’s Canada’s largest private-sector employer.

Galen Weston, whose family owns Loblaw, is one of Canada’s richest billionaires.

Unifor Local 597 members at 11 Dominion stores across Newfoundland went on strike Aug. 22. They’re fighting for a contract with higher wages and reinstatement of 60 full-time jobs that were eliminated in

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Build a union movement in all plants, workplaces!



The City/Jason Scott Jones

New York City unions Sept. 3 protest mayor’s threat to lay off thousands of city workers.

Fight for gov’t-funded public works program to create jobs

Sept. 9 statement by Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for president.

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

A fight by working people is needed to build a union movement in every workplace and to win immediate

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What is the political road forward for workers in 2020

BY SETH GALINSKY

As the Democratic and Republican conventions began, most pundits thought that Joe Biden was a shoo-in for president. They pointed to the widespread layoffs, nationwide protests against police brutality and ongoing coronavirus pandemic under President Donald Trump’s watch.

But Trump has been appealing to working people and presenting himself as the “jobs” and “law and order” candidate. He paints the Democrats as enablers of anarcho-radical destruction and looting who care little about the ef-

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Mine workers in Belarus say, Join protests against gov’t

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Popular mobilizations across Belarus demanding the resignation of President Alexander Lukashenko have defied his regime’s police threats against workers and protesters for the past month. Despite a heavy security presence, over 100,000 people rallied in Minsk, the capital, Sept. 6, as well as tens of thousands in other cities.

The popular protests were strengthened in the last two weeks of August as miners and other workers struck and took other actions at scores of large state enterprises.

Lukashenko is clinging to power through selective repression, bolstered by Moscow’s support, after claiming to have overwhelmingly won flagrantly rigged elections Aug. 9. The interior ministry says more than 600 people were arrested at the Sept. 6 actions.

One of the main opposition figures, Maria Kolesnikova, was abducted by masked men Sept. 7 and taken away in a van. The next day, she resisted being deported at the Ukrainian border by tearing up her passport.

She chose to stay although many other bourgeois opposition leaders are either in detention or have left. She and her supporters had decided against using bodyguards. “No number of guards would be of use” against

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SWP campaigns to build workers’ fight for jobs, control over job safety



Militant/Jeff Powers

Omar García told SWP presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy, left, “I support unions.” We need unions in every workplace, Kennedy said, to fight for our jobs, wages and conditions.

BY JEFF POWERS

LIVINGSTON, Calif. — Socialist Workers Party presidential and vice presidential candidates, Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett, joined SWP Senate candidate Joel Britton and other campaigners here to speak with working people Sept.

6. Livingston is a town of 13,000 and home to a Foster Farms chicken-processing plant with 2,500 workers. The bosses shut down the plant Sept. 1 to 7 because of an outbreak of COVID-19 that left eight employees dead.

Government negligence in deal-

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Join ‘Militant’ fight to overturn ban by Florida prison officials

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Florida prison authorities continue to ban issue after issue of the *Militant*, most recently for articles that report on these impoundments and the efforts of supporters of political rights to get them to reverse this.

They banned four of the five issues dated in August — nos. 30, 31, 33 and 34 — preventing 61 subscribers in 24 state prisons in Florida from getting the paper. If the impoundment of an issue is not overturned, the paper then will be banned in all of the state’s 143 prison facilities.

The prisoners want their *Militant*. “I need you to help me, I need my paper,” one subscriber wrote from the Santa Rosa Correctional Institute.

Readers of the *Militant* can help defend the constitutional rights of the *Militant* as well as its subscribers behind bars by getting co-workers, church groups, union officials and locals, and other organizations to send letters to the Florida prison system’s

Literature Review Committee, calling for them to lift the bans.

Officials at the Florida State Prison in Raiford say the reason they banned issue no. 34 is because of the article headlined “Fight to Overturn Florida

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Build fight for jobs, job safety

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ing with uncontrolled fires in northern California has worsened the impact of mass unemployment, a central part of the capitalist economic and social crisis.

Jarrett and Britton met two Foster Farm workers from Punjab, India. Their neighbor, Harpreet Kaur, who used to work in a cannery, translated.

One of the workers described how he was required to hang 34 chickens a minute for minimum wage. After he was injured on the job, the company blamed him for getting hurt and fired him.

“There is no reason for 5,000 workers to die every year on the job and for thousands more to be injured. It’s a product of the capitalists’ drive for profits,” Jarrett said. “That’s why workers need to take control of production and safety.”

Workers know how to work safely. “It’s the workers at Foster Farms who should decide the line speed, how far apart to work and other measures to protect their health from the virus,” Jarrett said. Kaur subscribed to the *Militant*.

Angélica Guevara told Kennedy about one of the worst days caused by a nearby fire. “The sky was thick with yellow smoke. I couldn’t breathe,” she said.

Guevara recently moved here after being laid off from a hotel in San Jose, which shut down because of corona-

virus. Livingston was the only place where she could now afford the rent.

“Under capitalism, working people are left to deal with the consequences of these types of disasters on their own,” Kennedy said. The media says the fires are just another “natural” disaster, but in reality this is a social crisis deepened by the dog-eat-dog capitalist system.

It was no secret that dry conditions and intense heat increased the fire danger. A government-funded public works program could have put tens of thousands of people to work at union-scale wages, clearing brush, replacing old electrical lines, and training personnel to make sure that any new fire could be isolated and brought under control.

“Everything is put on the backs of working people,” Kennedy said, from dealing with the virus pandemic to the fires. “Wealthy people in California have gone out and hired their own fire-fighting crews and they can afford to rent plush accommodations if they have to leave their houses. We’re forced to sleep in our cars if we have to evacuate.”

Kennedy also spoke with Marisela Rojas and Claudia Avino, restaurant workers who are cousins. Rojas said that their work hours had been cut and it was difficult to pay their bills.

“Wages should not be cut because of



Militant/Rebecca Williamson

SWP candidates Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett, center, tell workers about example of fight for union by Washington fruit packers. They and campaign supporter Edwin Fruit met Aug. 30 with activists in strike at Allan Brothers, including José, left, and Agustín López, right.

the economic crisis,” Kennedy said. “We say workers should fight for a shorter workweek at no cut in pay, to spread the work around.” Rojas and Avino subscribed to the *Militant* and bought *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record* by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes.

“My father-in-law who lives with us is a farmworker,” Omar García told Kennedy in Half Moon Bay the day before. “He works year-round, 10 or more

hours a day, six days a week, making \$14 an hour. He gets no overtime pay, no sick days or holiday pay.”

“That’s why we are campaigning to help workers build a union movement in every factory, retail store and farm,” Kennedy said. “Farmworkers, like other workers, can come together to fight to change the conditions we face and win solidarity.”

The SWP candidates say the union movement needs to fight for a government-funded public works program to build and repair hospitals and day care centers, schools and improved housing for farmworkers, and put those without jobs to work.

García, who was born in Mexico, has lived in California for over 14 years. “I go to construction sites and fields and take care of the porta potties,” he said.

Workers in the U.S. and Mexico face similar conditions, he said. “There are rich Mexicans too who own big companies like Bimbo Bakery. I support unions. The best job in Half Moon Bay is working as a garbage collector because it’s a union job. They make more money and get better benefits.”

García said he was concerned about President Donald Trump’s push to build a wall at the U.S.-Mexico border. “Wall or no wall, the capitalists need immigrant workers,” Kennedy said. While the U.S. government has made it more difficult to cross the border, it has also increased the number of “guest worker” visas for Mexicans to work in the fields.

“They don’t want us to organize. They aim to divide workers by pitting immigrant and native-born workers against each other to better attack us all. That’s why we are for amnesty for all those without papers in the U.S.,” Kennedy said, “to unite the working class.” García got a copy of the *Militant*.

For more information on how to join the SWP campaign, see page 8.

Socialist Workers Party updated 2020 platform

WORKERS NEED A UNION MOVEMENT IN EVERY WORKPLACE. The Socialist Workers Party presents a fighting working-class program to build and use our unions to defend the interests of all working people. We need to fight growing employer attacks on our jobs, wages and working conditions. Build solidarity with workers’ struggles to organize and defend themselves. Use union power on our own behalf, and for all those suffering blows by the bosses and their government. One union for all drivers — taxi, Uber, Lyft and other app-based and car service drivers!

MILLIONS NEED JOBS TODAY! Our unions need to fight for a federal government-financed public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages building hospitals, schools, housing, mass transportation and much more that workers need. Fight for a sliding scale of hours and wages to stop layoffs and the effects of runaway prices. Cut the workweek with no cut in pay! For cost-of-living clauses in every contract that raise pay and retirement benefits to offset every rise in prices!

Demand immediate national government unemployment benefits at union scale for *all* those thrown out of work as long as they need it.

WORKERS NEED THEIR OWN PARTY, A LABOR PARTY. For our unions to lead a class break from the parties of the bosses, the Democrats and Republicans. A labor party can organize workers in our millions to fight in our own interest and in the interests of all those exploited and oppressed by capital. It can chart a course to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers and establish a workers and farmers government.

WORKERS CONTROL OF PRODUCTION. Workers need to fight to wrest control of production out of the hands of the bosses. Employers care about profits, not the dangerous conditions we’re forced to work under. This is the only road to take control of and enforce

safety and health on the job. Demand the bosses open their books for inspection by workers and consumers. Workers control of production is a school for learning to run the economy ourselves, in the interests of all producers, a crucial step alongside building a labor party to fight to take political power.

FARMERS — WORKERS ALLIES ON THE LAND. To put a halt to farm foreclosures, bankruptcies and skyrocketing rural debt, we support demands for nationalization of the land. This puts the soil at the service of the farmers who till it, as opposed to monopolization by the banks and landlords. We demand the government guarantee farmers their costs of production, including their living expenses.

AMNESTY FOR ALL UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS in the US, a life-and-death question for the unions to unite workers and cut across divisions the bosses use to drive down wages. For access to driver’s licenses for all.

OPPOSE WASHINGTON’S WARS. US hands off Iran, Venezuela and Cuba. US troops out of Afghanistan, Korea, the Middle East. End US colonial rule in Puerto Rico.

FOR RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL & OF A CONTIGUOUS PALESTINIAN STATE. The leaders of Arab states, of Israel and Palestinian leaders need to meet and recognize both the state of Israel and an independent Palestinian state. For the right of Jews to return to Israel as a refuge in the face of capitalist crisis, Jew-hatred and murderous violence.

CUBA’S REVOLUTION — AN EXAMPLE. The Cuban Revolution in 1959 showed it is possible for workers and farmers to transform themselves in struggle, to take political power and uproot capitalist exploitation. End the US rulers’ economic war against Cuba; US out of Guantánamo.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL. Fight for universal, government-guaranteed cradle-to-grave health care, and re-

tirement income for all.

FIGHT POLICE BRUTALITY! Demand that cops who kill and brutalize people be prosecuted. Fight racist discrimination and the entire capitalist injustice system, with its frame-ups, “plea bargains,” onerous bail and “three strike” prison sentences, all of which disproportionately hit workers who are Black. For the right to vote for ex-prisoners and all workers behind bars.

WOMEN’S RIGHT TO ABORTION. Defend women’s right to unrestricted access to family planning services, including the right to safe, secure abortions.

DEFEND POLITICAL RIGHTS. Defend the right to vote, to free speech and assembly and to bear arms, under attack from Democrats and Republicans alike. Defend freedom of worship. Stop FBI and other government spying, harassment and disruption. No to middle-class radical “cancel culture” and their efforts to shut up people they deem “politically incorrect.”

DEFEND RIGHTS OF PRISONERS. End solitary confinement. End suppression of the *Militant*, books and other newspapers by prison authorities. Abolish the death penalty, an anti-working-class weapon in the hands of the rulers.

Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign in 2020! Campaign for what you are *for*, not who you’re against!

- ☐ I want to endorse the Socialist Workers Party ticket of Alyson Kennedy for president and Malcolm Jarrett for vice president.
- ☐ I want to join in campaigning or host a house meeting for the candidates. Please contact me.
- ☐ Here is my contribution of \$_____ to help spread the word. (Make checks to Socialist Workers National Campaign)
- ☐ Send me a 12-week subscription to the *Militant*, a socialist newsweekly. (\$5 enclosed, checks payable to the *Militant*.)

Send in along with your name, address, phone # and e-mail address to:
Socialist Workers Party 2020 Campaign, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, NY, NY 10018. Tel: 347-871-0282 ✉ Email: socialistworkers2020@gmail.com

Turkish, Greek rulers’ rivalry heats up in the Mediterranean

BY TERRY EVANS

Mounting competition and threats over the plunder of oil and gas resources between several rival capitalist powers across the eastern Mediterranean lies behind stepped-up clashes between the rulers of Turkey and Greece. These conflicts are exacerbated by pressure from the continuing slowdown in production and trade worldwide. And these same pressures draw the imperialist rulers in Paris and Washington to increase their intervention in the region.

Greek and Turkish warships bumped into each other in disputed waters Aug. 12, after the Turkish rulers sent a research ship, accompanied by frigates, to explore for oil and gas in seas claimed by Athens. The Greek government had deployed its own warships to the same area, less than 2 miles from Turkey’s southern coast.

These clashes also come as Ankara, Athens and other regional capitalist regimes are backing opposite sides in the bloody civil war in Libya. Long simmering territorial conflicts between the two ruling classes were stoked up when the Libyan government granted the Turkish rulers drilling rights off the coast of Libya in seas long claimed by Athens. In return, the Turkish government propped up the besieged Libyan government, sending it decisive military support in its civil war against Khalifa Haftar’s forces based in the country’s eastern region.

To counter Ankara’s new maritime claims, the Greek rulers Aug. 6 signed a deal with the Egyptian government, staking out Athens’ rights to the same waters.

Over the last decade large offshore natural gas fields in waters claimed by the rulers of Israel, Cyprus and Egypt have been discovered in the eastern Mediterranean. Along with U.S. and Italian oil company owners, capitalists from these countries have started drilling. Last year the East Mediterranean Gas Forum was founded by the governments of Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Italy, Greece and Jordan. They excluded the Turkish government and project the construction of the EastMed pipeline to carry gas from Israel to Italy through parts of the ocean the Turkish rulers now say belongs to them.

“Nobody will try to sabotage” the pipeline, warned Israeli Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz.

Cyprus is a divided country. After the then ruling military in Athens organized a coup in Cyprus in 1973, Turkish soldiers invaded the next year and occupied the northern part of the country. Some 35,000 Turkish troops remain garrisoned there today, against the wishes of the majority of the country’s Greek-Cypriot population.

Today the Turkish government challenges the Cypriot government’s explo-

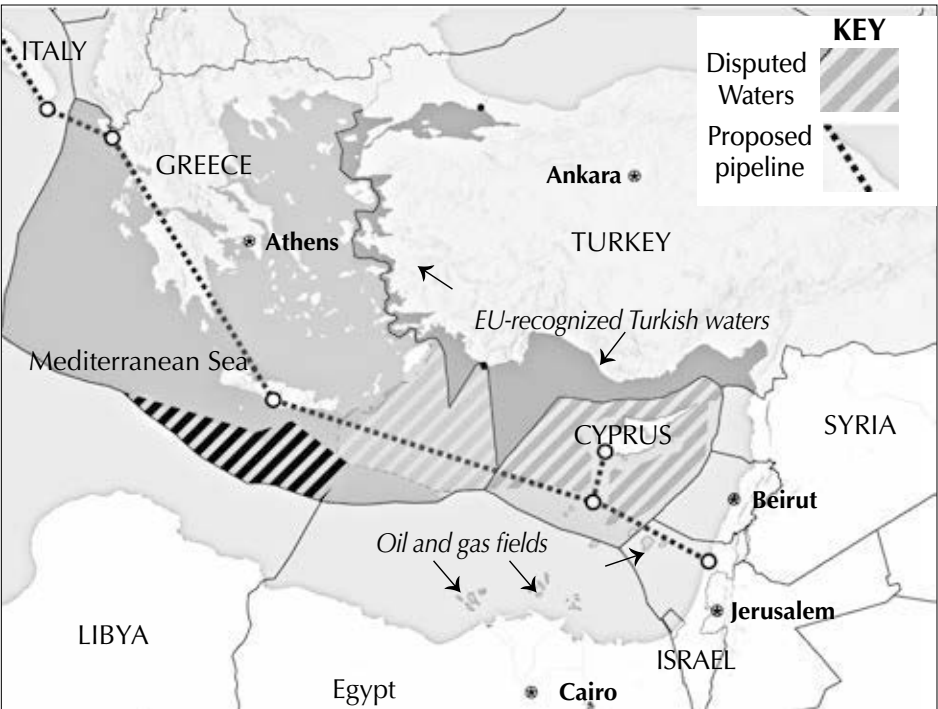
ration for gas in their coastal waters. It argues that the Turkish population in occupied northern Cyprus can only benefit from the newly found oil and gas resources if rivals accept Ankara’s territorial claims to those waters.

U.S. rulers eye profits

Washington rejects Turkish government claims to the east Mediterranean reserves. The Pentagon announced in July it would start joint military exercises with Cypriot government forces. Last December Congress ended an arms embargo of Cyprus, which had been imposed in 1987 with the strong backing of the Turkish rulers.

Ankara launched its own military exercises off occupied northeast Cyprus Sept. 6. The day before, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan threatened Athens, saying, “They will either understand the language of politics and diplomacy, or on the field through bitter experiences.” Ankara is the only government worldwide that recognizes its puppet government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

European Union officials back fellow member Greece in its claims to the oil and gas fields, demanding the



Map shows disputed areas between rulers of Greece, Turkey, other regimes in the region and imperialist powers as result of intensified competition amid the deepening crisis of capitalism.

Turkish government stop its exploration in waters claimed by Athens. French government officials say the Turkish navy harassed a French warship taking part in NATO exercises in the eastern Mediterranean in June. Ankara denies the allegation and says Paris must stop “bullying” while acting as a “guardian angel.”

Moscow also maintains a sizable naval presence in the eastern Mediterranean and has recently expanded its military ties with the Turkish government.

Driving the Turkish rulers’ stepped-up pursuit of their territorial claims in the region are the plunging economic fortunes of the country’s capitalist class. Their currency, the lira, dropped to its lowest point ever against the dollar this summer, stoking inflation, which has fallen most heavily on working people. The number of Turkish workers forced out of the labor force because they’ve given up hope of finding work rose from just over half a million last year to 1.3 million today.

Train deaths in Scotland show boss scorn for safety

BY PETE CLIFFORD

STONEHAVEN, Scotland — “No one should lose their life at work,” Stonehaven resident Jim Cattanach told the *Militant*, after two rail workers and a passenger were killed when a train derailed here south of Aberdeen Aug. 12. A government cover-up of the cause of the deaths began to unravel as trade unionists and relatives of those killed spoke out.

Train conductor Douglas Dinnie, driver Brett McCullough and passenger Christopher Stuchbury were killed when the train they were on hit a landslide caused by a torrential rain. Rail bosses had refused to cancel the service despite the enormous amount of rain falling in just four hours in an area of track with a recent record of landslides.

Trying to shield rail bosses from blame, U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Scottish government Transport Secretary Michael Matheson said the cause was a natural disaster. Bosses and government officials also tried to shift blame onto the workers.

Within days Salina McCullough, the sister of the driver, exposed the lies. “They killed him, not the landslide,” she told the *Scottish Mail*. “During one of the worst storms to hit Scotland, they sent my brother out.”

Trains from Aberdeen “were mostly cancelled but one question has to be asked, why all trains were not stopped?” Manuel Cortes, general secretary of the Transport Salaried Staff Association union, wrote in a public statement Aug. 24.

McCullough had stopped the train just south of here when instructed to do so by a signal worker warning of a landslide ahead. He was then told to take the train back to Stonehaven, the previous station. As he did so, the train hit another landslide and the carriages and two engines came off the track.

Hundreds lined the streets of Westhill outside Aberdeen Aug. 27 as the funeral cortege of conductor Dinnie passed by. Fellow rail workers applauded him in a gesture of solidarity.

An initial report from the government’s Rail Accident Investigation Branch highlighted that McCullough was going 72.8 mph when the train hit the landslide. The BBC headlined its reports about the derailment with the train speed.

They “have no idea what they are talking about,” responded McCullough’s widow, Stephanie. “When Brett was told to proceed back north he was told it was good to proceed at line speed — that was 75 mph — he was under that!” He “did everything by the book.”

This disaster and the attempted cover-up provoked some discussion in the rail station where I work in Manchester. Referring to the rail bosses’ inquiry, one of my co-workers, Sean Nunan, said, “It’s like when the police investigate the police, they will never get to the heart of the issues.”

Members of the Communist League traveled to Stonehaven to talk with working people there about the derailment.

The toll “would have been far worse if this was a normal working day,” said Angela Paterson, who knew the two workers killed. Up to 50 people would have taken that train before government lockdowns, but only nine were on board.

Days later in Llangennech, South Wales, a freight train carrying fuel derailed and burst into flames. Some 300 people were evacuated from nearby homes. The two-person train crew was able to get away uninjured.

“Only the train crew starts from safety for themselves and the passengers. The rail companies are more concerned for profits,” said Jake Wyatt, another one of my co-workers.

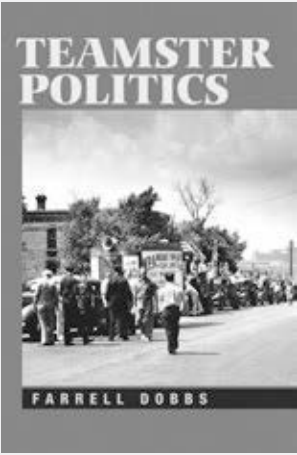
“The train crews need union backing to refuse to take unsafe trains out.”

“It’s always an issue of how much will safety cost for the rail companies, not what’s needed,” Nunan said.

I pointed to the need for rail workers and our unions to fight for workers control over work conditions and safety on the railroad, including over decisions about when a train is safe to run. “And with millions facing job losses today, we should fight for a jobs program to repair the rail infrastructure.”

Pete Clifford is a rail worker at Manchester Piccadilly station.

Recommended reading



“Unionism and politics cannot be separated. Power generated at the trade-union level can be shattered by government blows. Workers must enter the political arena as an independent class force, with their own party.”

— Farrell Dobbs

Other books in four-part series:
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— **CALENDAR** —

AUSTRALIA
Sydney
Celebrate the Opening of the New Communist League Campaign Hall! Building a Working-Class Movement. Speaker: Linda Harris, Communist League. Sat., Sept. 19. Reception, 6 p.m.; program, 6:30 p.m. Donation: \$10. 124-128 Beamish St., Campsie. Suite 103, first floor. Tel.: (02) 8677 0108.

Debate over road forward to win justice for Breonna Taylor

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Determined to press authorities to stop stalling and prosecute the cops who killed Breonna Taylor, hundreds demonstrated outside the 146th Kentucky Derby Sept. 5. Taylor, an emergency room technician, died at the hands of the city cops during a no-knock raid at her apartment nearly six months ago.

Officers had smashed in the door and then blindly fired over 20 rounds into her home shortly after midnight, March 13, after Taylor's boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, fired a single shot thinking intruders had broken in. Authorities are dragging out their probe into the killing, hoping concern about growing violence associated with the protests will lead to their fizzling out and help them bury the case. Republican state Attorney General Daniel Cameron still says there is no timetable for making a decision whether to prosecute the cops. Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear calls for "patience."

Serious threats to working people arose that day as people joined the march carrying guns. Another group of about 100 stood brandishing weapons as the anti-cop brutality march arrived at the Derby. These were members of the "Not F---ing Around Coalition" — a Georgia-based outfit that claims to speak for African Americans and opposes cop brutality.

Their presence made it easier for another armed group, which describes itself as "patriots," organized by Dylan Stevens, to threaten the march. Its members chanted "All Lives Matter," "U.S.A." and slogans backing the cops when they marched near anti-police-brutality protesters downtown earlier in the day.

Until Freedom, a New York-based group, has been in Louisville for weeks organizing actions around Breonna Taylor, largely focused on getting participants arrested for trespassing or blocking the streets. Other actions, promoted as "protests," have degenerated into looting and vandalism organized by antifa and other currents, as well as by hoodlums.

This has alienated many working people, who widely support the prosecution of the cops who killed Taylor, from joining the actions.

Speakers at the peaceful rally at the South Central Park on Sept. 5 included Rev. Timothy Findley Jr., of the Kingdom Fellowship Church.

"We have to protest today because the eyes of the world are on this city," he said. "Everyone has to know that we are serious about our call for justice."

Sadiqa Reynolds, president of the Louisville Urban League, called for the cops who killed Taylor to be prosecuted and urged protesters to be disciplined. "If someone along the road tries to divert you from your cause here, don't respond. We know we are marching today for justice for Breonna. Stay focused!"

But organizers did not condemn or prevent participants from carrying arms, ensuring the protest drew far fewer people than it could have and setting up participants for potentially deadly confrontations.



Militant/Maggie Trowe

Several hundred people march in Louisville, Kentucky, Aug. 25, calling for prosecution of cops who killed Breonna Taylor March 13. Actions like these point to need for disciplined mass protests as only way to draw in broad social forces needed to put cops on trial for brutality.

As the 2-mile march made its way through the working-class neighborhood that surrounds the Churchill Downs racetrack, residents stood on their porches watching, a few joining in discussions with demonstrators. Many looked on cautiously, expressing concern about anticipated violence. A plane flew overhead with a banner that read, "Arrest the cops who killed Breonna Taylor."

Margaret Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Kentucky, marched with protesters to Churchill Downs. She told partici-

pants, "It is incumbent on all forces that want to see large, disciplined, inclusive actions pressing for charges against the cops who shot Breonna Taylor to speak out against armed thugs of whatever political hue."

"Armed groups, vandalism and looting are a deadly danger to the fight against police brutality and to the working class in general," she said. Trowe pointed to the capacities of working people to change our conditions and the necessity of organizing in our millions to end the source of cop brutality — capitalist rule.

Solidarity with Dominion grocery workers strike

Continued from front page

2019. More than 80% of workers are part time, with limited access to benefits and haven't received a raise since spring 2018, Unifor Local 597 President Carolyn Wrice told the media.

Workers began calling for a strike in June — in the middle of contract talks — when Loblaw Companies Limited ended a 2 Canadian dollar-an-hour wage increase (\$1.52) that had been granted to their "essential workers" to keep them working during the coronavirus pandemic. The company's proposed contract — which would restore only half of that CA\$2 over the entire three-year con-

tract — was rejected by workers.

The strike is the most important labor battle in North America today.

A dozen unionists from several Unifor locals — at Rexall Drugs, Bell Canada telecommunications and in nursing homes — joined the action here. "I am here to support the Dominion workers in Newfoundland, highlighting the plight of Loblaw workers and all workers with low wages and few benefits, even if they're not in the same union I am," Ahmed Ismail told the *Militant*. Ismail works in tech support at Bell Canada and is a member of Unifor Local 6004.

In Toronto some 50 unionists pick-

eted in front of a Loblaw in downtown.

Unifor organized the Labor Day actions in response to a Sept. 1 letter to Dominion workers from Loblaw Atlantic Canada Vice President Mike Doucette. He claimed competition is fierce, business at Dominions across Newfoundland is down, and warns workers, "You need to know that this strike will not result in an improved offer." Unifor Local 597's bargaining committee wrote back the next day countering Doucette.

"Ultimately, when workers feel they've had enough, then they're going to fight back. And that's what we're seeing here," Chris MacDonald, assistant to Unifor's national president, told CBC Radio's "St. John's Morning Show."

The bosses won a court-ordered injunction Aug. 29 directing Dominion workers to stop setting up picket lines to block trucks. Another court hearing is set for Sept. 18 where the union will try to get the injunction overturned.

The determined fight waged by Unifor Local 597 members against Dominion stores is beginning to get broader coverage in the big-business media across Canada. In a Sept. 5 opinion column in the *Toronto Star*, Jim Stanford writes about "the current scrappy strike by 1,400 Unifor members at Dominion grocery stores."

Stanford reports that amid today's coronavirus pandemic and efforts by bosses to boost profits, during the first half of 2020 "union coverage surged to almost 32% — the highest in 15 years." He says this comes on top of membership hitting an all-time high of almost 5 million Canadian workers at the end of 2019, after years of decline.

Messages of support for the strike should be sent to Unifor Local 597 at info@unifor597.ca.

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themilitant.com**

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



September 25, 1995

Brutal police attacks against Native rights protesters in Ontario and British Columbia have left one person dead and at least four more injured by cop bullets. The standoff by Native people against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is about unsettled native land claims.

This summer Native people have erected barricades and occupied land at seven different points across the country. The federal and provincial governments along with the cops are waging a racist campaign to paint the Native fighters as outlaws and criminals.

The land claims of Native people across the country should be recognized and settled without further delay. In the context of the deepening political and economic crisis facing Canada's capitalist rulers the state force used against Native people today will be turned against strikers on picket lines tomorrow.



September 25, 1970

On Sept. 14, the second largest union in the United States struck General Motors, the world's largest manufacturer, bringing to a head two months of fruitless contract negotiations between the 1.4-million member United Auto Workers and the "Big-3" auto producers — Ford, Chrysler and GM.

The strike brought into sharp focus the refusal of American industrial workers to pay for the government's despised war in Vietnam through inflation and "restraint" in wage demands. One of the issues is the UAW's demand for the restoration of guaranteed periodic wage increases tied to the cost-of-living index.

The strike reflected the growing rebelliousness of the new generation of young workers, both Black and white, who are less and less willing to sell their souls and bodies into a lifetime of slavery to the all-devouring assembly line.



September 22, 1945

Many Koreans hoped that victory of the Allies over Japan would mean the independence of Korea. These hopes are turning into bitter disillusionment.

The armies of American imperialism are rolling into South Korea, and where they do not set up direct military control, they are bolstering the imperialist Japanese officialdom. One of the first orders of the occupying forces was that Japanese administrative officials would remain in office.

Demonstrations broke out in Seoul. General MacArthur answered with a proclamation that any act to disturb the peace or any hostilities against Allied troops would be punishable by death or such other punishment as the occupation authorities decided to inflict. General Hodge, in charge of the occupation, told the Koreans that their desire for immediate independence cannot be granted.

Belarus miners, ‘Join protests’

Continued from front page
“a bus full of riot police,” she said. “We all know what a police state is capable of.”

A key strike was at the state-owned Belaruskali mines and concentrating plant, which is the world’s largest producer of potash, a major fertilizer. Members of the strike committee, nominated by workers from the different divisions of the complex, responded to emailed questions from the *Militant*.

The Belaruskali strikers’ demands for an end to the brutal regime were signed by 5,000 workers, reflecting “the mood of millions,” they explained. The regime’s “falsification of elections and the violence against civilians who came out to express their opinions” was what drove the strike wave. Workers didn’t “want to feed the punishers who beat, rape, maim and kill civilians for our money.”

‘Workers most effective class’

Lukashenko “is most afraid of the working class,” committee member Vitaly Dyadyuk wrote. “The people of power tell us to work as slaves and not raise our heads.” Politics, they say, “is none of our business.”

The working class is “the largest, most effective class,” Dyadyuk wrote, “because we produce the products, goods, services. We feed the country.”

The political strikes that erupted at scores of enterprises in the last two weeks of August were because Lukashenko “spat on the people’s choice,” just as he held all the previous elections in contempt. Workers didn’t want to support “the current criminal illegal government.”

“All the institutions of power work for the one criminal family,” Dyadyuk pointed out. Lukashenko, a former collective farm boss when Belarus was part of the Soviet Union, rose to power in 1994 and has stayed there since. He has used his hold on power to control “a network of large supermarkets, construction companies, gambling and lottery businesses, and the sale of tobacco and alcoholic beverages.”

There are about 19,600 employees at the mining complex, including the

massive Soligorsk mine 2,000 feet underground.

“Unfortunately, not everyone can express their protest openly and refuse to work due to pressure from the administration,” Sergei Cherkasov, co-chairman of the Belaruskali strike committee, wrote. “Therefore, many had to return to work.”

“Many people at Belaruskali support the protest but they are afraid” to strike, the committee members explained, instead strictly working to rule. There are numerous issues from the lack of proper ventilation in the mines to faulty tools, so that “people do not work or do it very slowly.”

In the Belaruskali complex as elsewhere, “labor laws are not respected” by the bosses, and “work injuries are on the rise, a huge number of accidents are hidden.”

Dyadyuk said that “the pressure on the strike committee and on those in the strike is increasing.” Police come to their homes with summonses. Their apartments and cars are searched. “Each of us can be planted with drugs, everyone can be compromised. These criminals in uniform can do anything to maintain their criminal power.”

Threats and repression have taken a toll. There are “about 50 people left on strike in a serious way,” Dyadyuk said. The committee members would like more workers to leave the official State Federation of Trade Unions and join the Belarusian Independent Trade Union.

One person, who was detained Aug. 30, was found dead in a river. The police say this was suicide but “people don’t trust this.” The battered body of another, 25-year-old Alexei Demidov, was found on the outskirts of Minsk Sept. 5.

Several leading members of the main strike committees have been detained by agents of the KGB, the Soviet-era Belarus secret police. “Those who object, who speak up,” if they can’t be intimidated, “can be taken away, imprisoned or eliminated.”

“People are scared,” Dyadyuk said. “Nevertheless, every day there are dozens of applications to join the Belarus Independent Union.” The per-

Mongolians protest Beijing attack on language rights



Reuters/Anand Tumurtogoo

Thousands of parents, students, teachers, herders and other toilers protested at the beginning of September in cities across Inner Mongolia, an autonomous region of grassland and desert in northeast China. They were challenging moves by Beijing to teach key school courses in Mandarin Chinese, not their native Mongolian, as has been the case for decades. They see this attack as similar to that imposed against Uighurs, Tibetans and other non-Han peoples. Above, protesters in Ulaanbaatar, capital of neighboring Mongolia proper, an independent country, hold placards in Mongolian in solidarity Aug. 31.

Many parents and students only found out after school started that primary and secondary school courses in core subjects — language and literature, morality and law, and history — would no longer be taught in Mongolian or have textbooks in that language.

In online videos, rows of uniformed schoolchildren could be seen protesting, chanting “Our mother language is Mongolian!” and “We are Mongolian until death!” Parents faced riot police as they went to take their children out of school. The school boycott ended after several days as parents were threatened with loss of their state jobs.

The Chinese authorities published wanted lists of protesters they had identified from pictures taken by surveillance cameras and arrested hundreds.

“Almost every Mongolian is opposed to the revised curriculum,” Hu, a 32-year-old herder from the Xilingol region in Inner Mongolia, told Agence France-Presse.

Mongolian has long been recognized as an official language alongside Chinese in this strategic region, which borders Mongolia and Russia. With the government encouraging relocation of Han Chinese to Inner Mongolia, the 6 million Mongols there are now less than a fifth of the population.

Beijing has fanned Han nationalism and restricted minority languages in the name of “ethnic unity” and “ideological security.” More than a million Uighurs in Xinjiang, an autonomous region west of Inner Mongolia, have been forcibly detained in “reeducation” camps.

— ROY LANDERSEN

spective of the strike committee, he said, is for a nationwide strike, “the most peaceful, efficient, effective method to force Lukashenko and his criminal entourage to leave.”

Lukashenko looks to Moscow

As his regime holds onto power, Lukashenko has been forced to turn to Moscow for economic, political and military backing. At the end of August, in the mist of the political crisis, the government of Vladimir Putin agreed to refinance Minsk’s \$1 billion debt to Moscow.

Lukashenko has a history of playing off the European imperialist powers against Moscow to try to hang onto power. Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin came to Minsk Sept. 3, with a large delegation. Lukashenko announced agreement was being reached on bringing the two countries into a closer union.

Putin has raised the threat of intervention and put together a special Russian reserve of security forces Aug. 27, while saying these will be sent only if the situation “gets out of control.” Moscow has already sent planeloads of Russian broadcasters from the state-financed RT network to replace striking staff at Belarus state TV.

The Russian president faces his own problems, including nearly two months

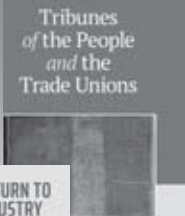
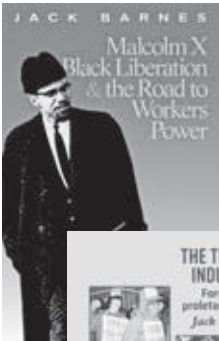
of sizable protests in the country’s Far East over his detention in Moscow of the elected regional governor there. Some of these protesters have begun carrying signs and flags in solidarity with the Belarusian movement.

“It is no secret,” the Belaruskali strike committee members wrote, “that the majority of Russians themselves do not like Putin’s imperial ambitions and foreign and domestic policies.”

Hanna Sharko helped with translation.

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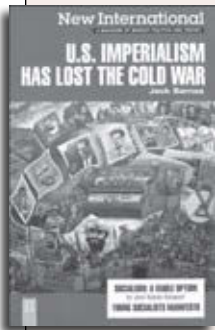
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by Jack Barnes



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Violent course of antifa, Black Lives Matter threat to working class

BY NAOMI CRAINE

In recent weeks there has been an escalation in deadly street violence led by antifa and leaders of Black Lives Matter, as well as by some rightist vigilantes — from Portland, Oregon, to Kenosha, Wisconsin. The looting, intimidation, arson, street fighting, and shootings pose a deadly threat to the working class.

All summer, groups of antifa have carried out provocative nightly actions in Portland, including attacking police, setting fires and breaking windows. These actions are dangerous for working people looking for ways to resist bosses' efforts to push the capitalist crisis onto our shoulders. They deal blows to fights by unionists, against cop brutality and for Black rights.

The evening of Aug. 29, hundreds caravanned through downtown Portland waving pro-Trump and pro-cop flags. They were bombarded with rocks, eggs and other projectiles by the groups who have been attacking federal buildings. Some right-wing forces responded by firing paintballs and pepper spray.

Amid these clashes, Aaron "Jay" Danielson, a supporter of the right-wing group Patriot Prayer, was shot dead, authorities say, by antifa supporter Michael Reinhoehl. On Sept. 4, Reinhoehl was surrounded and killed by U.S. marshals and local cops.

Reinhoehl's social media posts show how antifa supporters glorify violence. "I am 100% ANTIFA all the way," he wrote on Instagram in June. "I am willing to fight for my brothers and sisters! Even if some of them are too ignorant to realize what antifa truly stands for... It will be a war and like all wars there will be casualties."

On Aug. 29, I attended a rally in Kenosha protesting the cop shooting of Jacob Blake Jr. on Aug. 23. It had been called by Blake's family to oppose police brutality and to urge a halt to arson and violence carried out by anarcho-radical forces earlier in the week. At an Aug. 25 protest, 17-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse had shot three Black Lives Matter supporters, killing two.

Although the Aug. 29 rally was called a "Peace March," one of the speakers, who was not identified by name, declared, "If you kill one of us, it's time for us to kill one of yours." He went on to bait Caucasians at the action and closed his speech with the slogan, "Race first." Several black-clad individuals, some openly carrying weapons, participated as a group in the rally.

Liberals in the boardrooms of the *New York Times* and like-minded media lend a hand, insisting there isn't a problem. *Times* columnist Paul Krugman wrote Sept. 3 that reports of "invisible anarchists" are simply "lurid fantasies." He hasn't been at any protests recently.

As protests against cop brutality exploded earlier this year, Black Lives Matter became a widespread sentiment that millions of working people identified with this fight. But increasingly actions organized by Black Lives Matter leaders have targeted working people. This includes actions marked by silencing, shaming and intimidating passersby — one sure sign they have nothing in common with anyone building a the broadest possible working-class movement.

An Aug. 24 march in Washington, D.C., called to protest the police shooting of Blake degenerated as some par-



Twitter/Fredrick Kunkle

Lauren Victor threatened at Washington, D.C., restaurant Aug. 24. Actions seeking to silence, "shame" and intimidate people are on a political course toward anti-working-class thuggery.

ticipants surrounded diners at restaurants, accusing them of enjoying "white privilege." A video shows dozens chanting, "White silence is violence" as they crowded around one diner, Lauren Victor, showering her with abuse when she declined to raise her fist as they demanded. In fact, Victor had previously joined protests against cop brutality.

During the same action, marchers chanted, "Fire, fire, gentrifier — Black people used to live here," as they have done in New York and elsewhere. Such calls have nothing to do with solving the chronic housing crisis and everything to do with fueling violent and poisonous resentment.

From St. Louis to Chicago, Portland and Washington, D.C., the homes of mayors and other public officials have become the targets of the violence these forces carry out. In the Chicago suburb of Oak Park, more than 100 people gathered outside the home of Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb during an online village board meeting Aug. 25. They pounded on the windows, tore up the mayor's yard and vandalized his house.

As they glorify violence, the embittered middle-class forces of antifa rail against "the elite," elevate small group action above political struggle and remain deeply alienated from the working class. They have much in common with fascist groups they claim to oppose. Others have traveled this road previously, like Italian Socialist Party leader Benito Mussolini who went on to lead fascist forces to power in 1922.

Today many liberals praise those leading these destructive actions. National Public Radio published a sympathetic interview with Vicky Osterweil, author of the book *In Defense of Looting*. Osterweil asserts that looting is "joyous and liberatory" because it means people don't have "to rely on jobs or a wage."

Leaders and backers of Black Lives Matter have the same line. At a small action organized by BLM in Chicago, participants held a banner saying, "Our futures have been looted... loot back."

The furthest thing from the minds of people like this is mobilizing working people to fight together for what we most need — jobs, unemployment relief, better wages and improved working conditions. Their aim is not to end capitalism, but to get more of its perks and posts for those they consider deserving — themselves and like-minded "woke" meritocrats of all skin colors.

The capitalist class and their servants

in government, whether Republicans or Democrats, will decide at a certain point to use force to brutally halt the mayhem these groups foment. Federal forces are already deployed in Portland. The National Guard is now in Kenosha. The bosses' "law and order" forces are not there to protect working people but to defend those that rule, above all against the struggles of working people.

The violence and thuggery practiced by antifa and Black Lives Matter is the opposite of the broad, inclusive mobilizations that were organized in late May, largely by young people in thousands of towns large and small across the country in response to police brutality.

Other fights are unfolding today. Families who have lost loved ones to cop violence haven't given up pressing to get the cops prosecuted. Unionists are standing up to bosses' incessant attacks on wages and jobs, like striking retail workers at Dominion stores in Newfoundland. Such struggles merit solidarity and point a way forward for building the fighting labor movement we need.

It is in the course of these fights and broader struggles in the years ahead working people will learn how to defend ourselves in disciplined ways from assaults by the bosses and cops who protect their rule. And we will see more clearly the middle-class character and dangerous anti-working-class course of antifa and the Black Lives Matter leadership.

As we do so we'll gain confidence in our own forces and have the opportunity to build a movement capable of bringing an end to capitalist rule and replacing it with our own government.

'Cop killed Cesar Rodriguez for not paying \$1.75 fare'



Militant/Laura Garza

LONG BEACH, Calif. — "We're here to continue fighting and telling his story because it's unfair he was killed for \$1.75," Evelia Granados, the 25-year-old sister of Cesar Rodriguez, told 75 protesters at the police station here on the third anniversary of her brother's death Aug. 29. "We want justice, we want for that police officer to be charged with murder." Granados, left, spoke along with Rodriguez's mother, Rosa Moreno, at mic.

Rodriguez, 23, was stopped in 2017 at a Metro station for not paying a \$1.75 fare. In a scuffle with one of the cops caught on video, he ended up with part of his body hanging off the platform when a train pulled into the station, pinning him between the platform and the train. He died shortly after.

"We weren't notified until four days after he died. They didn't speak to us until the press called them after some protests. They told us he fled and fell and was pinned," Granados said. But the video shows that isn't true.

Two days before the protest the Los Angeles district attorney's office exonerated the cops involved. They said officer Martin Ron "used reasonable force," in spite of the fact that his actions led to Rodriguez's death.

Protests have also taken place over the last two weeks to demand charges against the cops who shot and killed Anthony McClain Aug. 15 in Pasadena. McClain was a passenger in a car pulled over for not having a license plate displayed in the front. The driver told the cops it had fallen off and showed it to them, but both he and McClain were ordered to get out of the car.

A video released by the cops shows McClain running from the scene, then being shot twice in the back by the cops, who claimed he reached for his waistband and threw down a gun. He was 32 and had three children.

Over the next two weeks dozens joined protests both in Pasadena and Los Angeles, demanding the cops face charges.

"I keep my faith by going to the protests, getting educated," June Williams, a friend of McClain, told this *Militant* worker-correspondent. We were both visiting the memorial at the site where he was shot that's maintained by his family, friends and community members.

— LAURA GARZA



ALYSON KENNEDY

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

Fight for jobs, for a labor party



MALCOLM JARRETT

Continued from front page

protection from the widespread unemployment and rising prices we face. Proposals to advance that are at the heart of the Socialist Worker Party 2020 campaign — the only campaign that starts from the capacities of working people to lead a movement of millions to defend and advance the interests of all those exploited and oppressed by capitalist rule.

From the strike by Dominion grocery workers in Newfoundland, Canada, to countless on-the-job actions at workplaces across the U.S., workers are finding ways to stand up to bosses’ insistence on pushing more work on fewer of us, reduce wages and worsen conditions. Build solidarity with their struggles!

To prevent bosses throwing more of us out of work the SWP campaign says unions need to mobilize working people in a fight for a shorter workweek *with no cut in take home pay* to spread work around and prevent layoffs.

Our unions can mobilize a fight for a massive government-funded public works program to put millions back to work at union-scale pay. They can build hospitals, housing, schools and other things neglected by bosses who put profits over workers’ needs.

As rising prices for food and other essentials make it harder for working people to make ends meet, our unions can fight for automatic cost-of-living clauses in our contracts and in government programs. When prices go up, so should wages, pensions and unemployment and Social Security.

A fighting union movement in every workplace will provide working people with the strongest foundation possible to build the political instrument we need, our own party, a labor party. By charting a course to defend the interests of all those oppressed and exploited by capital, a labor party

prepares us for the struggles to come — the fight to throw off the rule of the small class of capitalists and their meritocratic enablers and establish a government of workers and farmers.

Working people in Cuba, led by Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement, showed that socialist revolution is both possible and necessary. They toppled the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in 1959 and went on to end the stranglehold of both U.S. imperialism and Cuban capitalists. Workers and farmers established their own government, which organized them to take control over the land, factories, banks and other workplaces.

Cuban working people used their government to organize a massive literacy drive and to deepen struggles against racism and women’s oppression. The toilers courageously defeated U.S.-backed mercenaries at the Bay of Pigs in 1961 and stood up to the unrelenting efforts by the U.S. rulers to overthrow the revolution ever since.

In the course of these struggles, working people in Cuba transformed themselves, as Che Guevara said, into “new men and women.” They looked to aid working people everywhere fighting against colonial rule and for freedom. They continue to provide unstinting international solidarity, as thousands of Cuban medical volunteers are doing around the world today to help combat the spread of coronavirus.

The Democratic and Republican parties and all who uphold capitalist rule try to “teach” us that working people are incapable of taking and exercising political power. They consider us things to be administered and held in check, not makers of history, as we will become in the deepening working-class struggles ahead.

Join the SWP 2020 campaign!

Free Ed Poindexter!

BY JOE SWANSON

LINCOLN, Neb. — Supporters of freedom for former Black Panther Edward Poindexter urge all those who care about justice to back his application for commutation of his sentence, filed on Aug. 17. Aug. 31 marked 50 years Poindexter has been in prison. He is presently held in the Nebraska State Penitentiary here. His supporters are asking Gov. Pete Ricketts to expedite Poindexter’s application because of the risk of COVID-19 in prison today, and because at age 75 he suffers from a heart condition and diabetes.

Known as the “Omaha Two,” Poindexter and Mondo we Langa (formerly David Rice), were leaders of the Black Panther Party in Omaha in the late 1960s. Like others, they were targeted both by the Omaha police and by the FBI under their notorious Cointelpro spying and disruption program. After a long illness, we Langa died in 2016 after 45 years in prison.

In August 1970, they were framed on charges of killing an Omaha police officer, who died after being lured into a home where a suitcase bomb exploded.

Over years, supporters of Poindexter and we Langa have forced out into the open government documents showing how the cops and FBI systematically spied on and harassed African American activists in Omaha. The documents show authorities were out to discredit and dismantle the two Panthers’ political work and the FBI denied crucial evidence to their defense team.

With the evidence of the authorities’ campaign against the two suppressed, and even though witnesses placed them elsewhere at the time of the killing, Poindexter and we Langa were convicted.

Supporters urge people to write, email and call the Nebraska Board of Pardons, at P.O. Box 95007, Lincoln, NE 68509; email: ne.pardonsboard@nebraska.gov; call: Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts (402) 471-2244. Request they expedite Poindexter’s application and schedule his hearing for the October 2020 parole board meeting and commute his sentence. Please send a copy of your letter to freedomfored@gmail.com. Free Ed Poindexter!

What is the political road forward for workers in the 2020 elections?

Continued from front page

fect on working people and small-business owners.

With two months to go to the vote, JP Morgan Chase and Las Vegas odds makers say it’s a toss-up, with rising odds Trump will come out on top.

The fact is, neither Biden nor Trump have any solution for the biggest problem facing working people — far-reaching unemployment.

The only voice for the working class in the 2020 elections is the Socialist Workers Party campaign and its presidential ticket of Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett. The SWP is putting forward demands workers can use to fight for a union movement in every workplace, to advance their interests.

The party’s candidates call for the unions to fight for a government-funded public works program to create millions of jobs at union scale, building schools, hospitals and other things workers need. They say we need to organize to cut the workweek with no cut in pay, to prevent further layoffs.

The Republican National Convention, unlike the Democrats’ that showcased politicians and performers, included workers, farmers and small-business people. Alice Johnson — a Black woman who spent 25 years in jail for a first-time drug offense until her sentence was commuted by Trump — was a featured speaker. “There are thousands like me who deserve the opportunity to come home,” she said.

Trump presents himself as a champion of working people. “A lot of Republicans don’t want me to say that, but I’ll tell you unions are fine,” Trump said at a rally held during the Democratic convention. “What I talk about is the worker.”

Carnage facing workers continues

In 2016 Trump won support from many workers by highlighting the “carnage,” from factory closings to drug addiction. Now, after four years in the White House, he is trying to recapture some of that. He claims that under his watch, “America’s unprecedented economic recovery continues.”

In fact, the carnage will continue no matter which

capitalist candidate wins the November contest.

Today’s capitalist economic crisis, exacerbated by government-ordered shutdowns on production and trade, takes a toll on working people. Despite moratoriums in many states, more than 40,000 families have been evicted since the start of the pandemic.

The official unemployment rate in August was 8.4%, down from 10.2% in July. At the same time, millions are without work and many major industries — from airlines to auto plants — are announcing layoffs. The 44-story, 478-room Hilton Times Square hotel announced it is permanently closing. CNBC reports 34% of New York hotels are delinquent in paying their bills. Amtrak announced that it is putting 2,000 rail workers on furlough and plans to lay off as many as 20% of its workers next year.

During the Democrats’ convention and since, Biden makes opposition to Trump the center of his campaign, shying away from talking about what he is *for*. Trump takes advantage of this, saying Biden is just a front man for radicals in the Democratic Party.

One of Biden’s central attacks on Trump is to blame him for the government’s negligent response to COVID-19. But both parties’ response to the pandemic has been anti-working-class.

At a Sept. 3 rally in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, Trump pointed out that thousands of senior citizens died in New York state because Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered nursing homes to take in patients with the virus. This was a death sentence for retirees.

The U.S. government sent a hospital ship to New York City with hundreds of beds and set up a field hospital with 2,800 more at the peak of the pandemic, Trump points out. Despite overwhelmed hospitals in the city, those beds went largely unused.

Neither the Trump nor Biden campaigns say anything about the real problem — the for-profit health care “system,” which assures state-of-the-art treatment for the wealthy on private wards and overcrowded, understaffed, ill-equipped public hospitals for working people. That’s why there were not enough hospital beds or masks and other protective equipment for

health care workers. It’s why the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continues to tell those who are ill to stay home, unless they can’t breathe.

Biden refuses to say ‘antifa’

In an Aug. 31 speech in Pittsburgh, Biden finally said something about wanton destruction in Portland, Oregon, and elsewhere, saying, “Looting is not protesting. Setting fires is not protesting.”

But he blamed the violence on Trump, never mentioning antifa and similar middle-class radicals who have hijacked what started as mass political protests against police brutality and turned them into small forays of anti-political destruction.

The violence is spearheaded by mostly Caucasian, middle-class radicals and antifa. They are aided by meritocratic Black Lives Matter leaders, who think the violence will force the rulers to give them a seat at their table.

Black Lives Matter leaders organize predominantly Caucasian marchers to target Caucasian neighborhoods, shouting “Wake up motherf---ers,” demanding that the “white privileged” renounce their privilege and fork over cash.

Trump wins a hearing when he says that the anti-fa-type violence is most rampant in cities run by the Democratic Party. He points to Portland, where the Democratic mayor — who had made excuses for the antifa violence — fled his own home, after so-called protesters set fire to the complex where he lived.

Biden’s supporters are nervous about how he’ll do in debates with Trump, with some calling for him to refuse to participate.

The liberal media runs articles claiming Trump will refuse to leave the White House, regardless of the outcome of the vote. David Brooks’ piece in the Sept. 4 *New York Times* was headlined, “What Will You Do If Trump Doesn’t Leave?” He says there’ll have to be an uprising.

The article could have been titled, “What Will You Do If the Democrats Lose, but Refuse to Recognize the Results?”